MARC SILVESTRI - ARIF PRIANTO

BATMAN™ & THE JOKER™

THE DEADLY DUO

BOOK FOUR

DC BLACK LABEL

17+ MATURE

HEROES TRANSFORMED. SECRETS REVEALED. POWERS UNLEASHED.

DC UNIVERSE LAZARUS PLANET

THE GAME-CHANGING TWO-MONTH EPIC CONCLUDES IN FEBRUARY!

LAZARUS PLANET: OMEGA #1 COVER BY DAVID MARQUEZ

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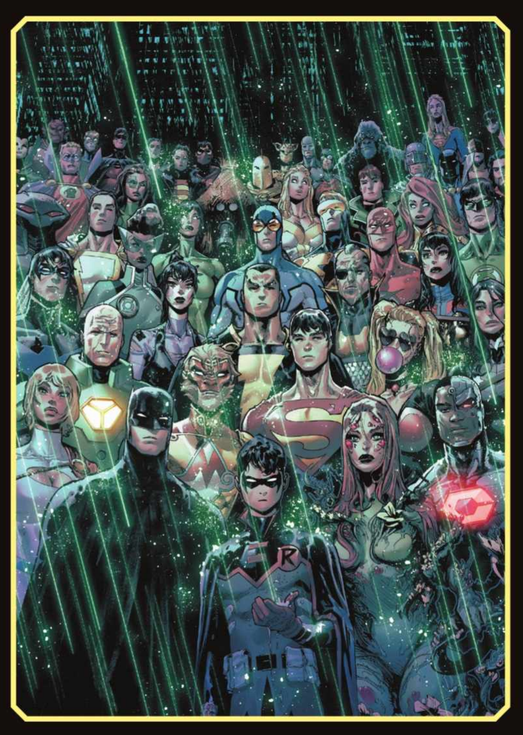
HEROES WILL BE BORN!
NEW THREATS WILL RISE!

☐ *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution #1*

☐ *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate #1*



☐ *Lazarus Planet: Omega #1*

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DAY OF ***CELEBRATION...***

...A DAY FILLED WITH LOVE AND HOPE... AND ***DREAMS.***

BUT THE WORLD CAN BE A SAVAGE AND HEARTLESS PLACE...

...WHERE DREAMS CAN BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN THE FIRST PAGE IN A BOOK OF ***NIGHTMARES.***

VROOOM

CRASH

GHAAAAAAA!

LOOK OUT!

BASHHH

WHAT THE *HELL* KIND OF DRIVING DO YOU CALL *THAT?*

WHATTAYA MAD AT *ME* FOR? YOU SAID, "DRIVE INTA THAT CHURCH," SO I *DID!*

I SAID--

--OKAY, FAIR POINT...LET'S GO.

OKAY, QUIET DOWN, YA *CRYBABIES.*

BLAMM

YOU HEARD MISTA J, QUIT YER BLUBBERIN'!

OH MY GOD!

STAY HERE, HONEY... *I'LL* HANDLE THIS.

NOW DON'T ANY OF YOU *NUMBSKULLS* DO ANYTHING *STUPID.*

HEY, YOU LUNATIC SON OF A B--

LIKE *THIS* GUY, FOR EXAMPLE.

BLAM

THE BLOOD...THE SCREAMING...THE *HORROR* OF IT ALL WAS *UNIMAGINABLE.*

ALL RIGHT, PLAYTIME'S OVER. *YOU'RE* IN CHARGE OF THE *MURDER BAG.* WINDOWS, DOORS, EVERYTHING. *NOBODY* GETS IN, *NOBODY* GETS OUT. GOT IT?

GOT IT, BOSS!

AND WHEN THE *GOTHAM POLICE* ARRIVED, THEY DID WHAT THEY DO BEST...

...DESTROY THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

THE JOKER PICKED A HELLUVA WEDDING TO CRASH.

DONALD SIMMS'S DAUGHTER. CHRIST. HAS HE MADE ANY DEMANDS YET?

DOESN'T MATTER, GORDON. HE'S NOT GETTING ANYTHING. MY MEN WILL BE IN POSITION TO STRIKE IN TWO MINUTES.

NOT YOUR CALL, BENNET.

YO, FIVE-O!

KRNCH

LISTEN UP! THIS...IS A DEAD GUY. AND THERE WILL BE MORE DEAD GUYS LIKE THIS GUY IF YOU GUYS DON'T GIVE ME WHAT I WANT, CAPISCE?

NUMBER ONE, SANDWICHES. GOOD ONES, FROM MOE'S.

AND CHIPS... ALL THE FLAVORS.

NUMBER TWO, I WANT A HELICOPTER. A PURPLE ONE... WITH COMFY SEATS!

BRINNNG

TELL BENNET TO KEEP HIS MEN BACK...

"...I'M GOING IN."

THE ENSUING INVESTIGATION WOULD OF COURSE ***EXONERATE*** THE POLICE, CONCLUDING THAT THEY ACTED IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE HOSTAGES. NO CHARGES WERE EVER FILED...

...BUT *I* KNOW THE ***TRUTH.***

BLUE ONE IN POSITION. WAITING FOR A GO.

WELL, I'M ***BORED.*** LET'S DO SOMETHING ***FUN.*** I KNOW, LET'S PICK THE NEXT ***DEAD*** GUY!

EENY, MEENY, MINY...AND--

--TAG, YOU'RE IT!

CONGRATS TO THE ***FATHER*** OF THE ***BRIDE!***

YOU ***WIN!***

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "PROTECTOR OF GOTHAM"...

...THE BATMAN.

NO HARD FEELINGS, POPS, BUT WHEN YOU GOTTA GO...

CLICK

...YOU GOTTA GO!

BLAMM

?!

CHUK

HE APPEARED FROM THE DARKNESS... ***SHADOW*** MOVING IN SHADOW.

OH, HIYA BA--

GHAAAA!

BLAM

--OOF!

HE'S KILLING THE HOSTAGES! ALL TEAMS, YOU ARE ***GO!***

BENNET, ***DON'T!***

AND THEN EVERYTHING...

...WENT ***BLACK.***

"BOOORRRING..."

...BLAH, BLAH, EEK! ARGH! MY ***EYE!*** ***KA-BOOM!*** BLAH, BLAH. PFFT, OLD NEWS, I WAS ***THERE.***

YES, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ***HERE.***

WHATEVER, TURD. LOOK, I HAVE A VERY BUSY DAY, SO WHY DON'TCHA KICK ROCKS AND GO GET ***SYPHILIS*** OR SOMETHIN'?

I PAID A VISIT TODAY TO THE ***PIGSTY*** YOU CALL HOME.

IT'S TRUE THAT PEOPLE HAVE SECRETS, BUT I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND ***ACTUAL SKELETONS*** IN YOUR CLOSET.

EH, JUST A COUPLA EXES. I'M A LITTLE BEHIND ON MY SPRING CLEANIN'. NOW GO AWAY.

WHILE I WAS THERE, I PICKED OUT A FEW ARTICLES OF CLOTHING FOR YOU.

WOW, THAT'S NOT ***PERVY*** AT ALL.

YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING IN THE BAG.

THUP

THERE'S A VERY SPECIAL ***EVENT*** THAT YOU'RE INVITED TO. PUT SOMETHING NICE TOGETHER AND ***TRY*** TO MAKE YOURSELF ***PRESENTABLE.***

EAT FARTS.

HMM. AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE OUR STIMULATING LITTLE CHAT, YOU'D BEST GET BUSY. YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.

BATMAN & THE JOKER
THE DEADLY DUO

CHAPTER FOUR

BULLET

THE ***GOTHAM BULLET*** WAS THE FASTEST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE EVER BUILT AND RAN THE SILVER LINE BETWEEN GOTHAM AND METROPOLIS THROUGHOUT THE 1930S.

ABLE TO RUN AT OVER 140 MILES PER HOUR, IT SET THE SPEED RECORD FOR STEAM-DRIVEN TRAINS, A RECORD IT HOLDS TO THIS DAY.

THE DAYS OF STEAM POWER ARE LONG GONE, BUT THE ***BULLET*** REMAINS IN SERVICE AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION AND A POPULAR VENUE FOR ***SPECIAL EVENTS.***

THE TRAIN HAS BEEN OWNED AND MAINTAINED BY MY FAMILY SINCE IT CAME OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE, AND IS CONSIDERED A NATIONAL TREASURE.

SHUNK

CHUNK

SOME OF MY HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES ARE OF RIDING THIS TRAIN WITH MY PARENTS TO VISIT FAMILY FRIENDS LIVING IN METROPOLIS.

TONIGHT I RIDE WITH *THE JOKER.*

AS EXPECTED, *THE CALL* COMES IN.

HELLO, BATMAN. HELLO, JOKER. CAN YOU BOTH HEAR ME THROUGH YOUR EARPIECES?

YES.

GOOD. TIME IS SHORT, SO LET'S BEGIN.

*TODAY'S TASK IS A SIMPLE ONE. **EMPTY**, THE TRAIN WEIGHS A CERTAIN AMOUNT. WITH **PASSENGERS**, IT WEIGHS **MORE**.*

*CURRENTLY, THE TRAIN IS BEING USED TO HOST A LARGE **WEDDING** AND IS FULL OF GUESTS. YOUR TASK IS TO BRING THE TRAIN BACK DOWN TO ITS **EMPTY** WEIGHT.*

BUT FIRST, A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

...THE CREW IS **DEAD.** IF ANY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO **UNCOUPLE** THE CARS OR TO **STOP** THE TRAIN, I WILL **DERAIL** IT. AT THIS SPEED, I DOUBT THERE WOULD BE MANY **SURVIVORS.**

SENSORS HAVE BEEN POSITIONED ALONG THE TRACK TO MEASURE THE TRAIN'S WEIGHT...

...IF YOU ARE **SUCCESSFUL,** A FINAL **SWITCH** WILL DIVERT THE TRAIN BEFORE IT ARRIVES AT ITS NEXT STOP...

...THE MARTHA WAYNE MEMORIAL STATION.

IF YOU **FAIL,** IT WILL CRASH INTO THE TERMINAL AT FULL SPEED, KILLING AN UNTOLD NUMBER OF COMMUTERS HEADED HOME FOR THE WEEKEND.

THERE ARE 207 PASSENGERS ABOARD THIS TRAIN, BUT SEVERAL **THOUSAND** AT THE STATION...

...WHICH WILL YOU **CHOOSE?**

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES.

...AND DO **YOU,** CAMILLA, TAKE WILLIAM TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED HUSBAND?

I D--

CRASH

STOP!

AT THE SPEED WE'RE TRAVELING THERE IS NO WAY TO GET THE PASSENGERS SAFELY OFF THE TRAIN, AND THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME FOR THE ***BATPLANE*** TO EVACUATE THEM.

I HAVE TO LIGHTEN IT ***ANOTHER*** WAY.

GRAB EVERYTHING YOU CAN--CHAIRS, LAMPS, TABLES, ***EVERYTHING. ALL*** OF IT NEEDS TO BE THROWN OFF THE TRAIN...

...NOW!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ***TALKING*** ABOUT? WAIT, IS THAT ***THE JOKER?***

IN THE ***ALABASTER FLESH!*** NOW DO AS MY PARTNER SAYS AND START TOSSIN' STUFF!

WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO ***YOU?***

WELL, FOR ONE, I'M A ***SUPER-HERO*** NOW, SO IT'S THE ***LAW!*** AND TWO, IF YOU DON'T...

...YOU'RE ***ALL*** GONNA ***DIE.***

35 MINUTES LEFT AND YOU'RE STILL 28,000 **POUNDS** OVER THE WEIGHT LIMIT...

BREEP BREEP

...IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR PLAN IS GOING TO WORK.

HE'S **RIGHT,** BATS. SMASHING EVERYTHING TO BITS MIGHT BE FUN, BUT IT **AIN'T** GONNA GET THE JOB DONE. WE GOTTA START THINKIN' **OUTSIDE** THE BOX!

THE **ONLY** WAY WE'RE GONNA DO THIS IS IF WE START TOSSIN' THESE RUBES **OFF** THE TRAIN.

FOR EFFICIENCY'S SAKE, WE CAN START WITH THE **BIG** ONES!

C'MON, BATS, WHAT DO I HAFTA DO TO CONVINCE YOU, LIGHT MYSELF ON **FIRE?**

SAY THAT AGAIN.

I **SAID:** WHAT DO I HAFTA DO, LIGHT MYSELF ON...WHOA! HEY PARTNER, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. I WAS ONLY KIDDING--

EVERYONE, STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING. HEAD TO THE **FRONT** OF THE TRAIN.

MOVE!

IS ALL THIS REALLY NECESSARY? I FEEL LIKE A ***BAT...***

THAT PUN WAS ***INTENDED,*** BY THE WAY.

LOOK, ***BUTTWING,*** BUSTING INTO DATA CENTERS IS TRICKY BUSINESS. BESIDES, I--BEING A WOMAN OF PANACHE AND STYLE--RECOGNIZE THAT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ***WHAT*** YOU STEAL, IT'S ***HOW*** YOU STEAL IT!

YEAH, CARPE DIEM. AND IT'S ***NIGHTWING.***

NOT WITH THE VIEW ***I*** HAD.

SO YOU ABOUT DONE? I FEEL AN ANEURYSM COMING ON.

ALMOST THERE. YOU KNOW YOUR ***BOSS*** IS GONNA OWE ME REAL FAVORS FOR THIS. THERE'S A LOT OF ***FAT CATS*** IN THIS TOWN THAT I COULD BE THIEVING FROM RIGHT NOW.

TAP TAP TAP TAP

THAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND HIM, ***CATWOMAN.*** AND HE'S NOT MY ***BOSS.***

IF YOU SAY SO, ***NIGHTCHEEKS...*** BINGO! DOWNLOADED AND DONE!

TAP TAP

WOW, THIS IS SOME ***SKETCHY*** STUFF...WHAT'S YOUR BOSS GOTTEN INTO HERE?

YOU DIDN'T SEE ***ANYTHING...***

"...AND HE'S **NOT** MY BOSS."

...AND SO, IF WE DON'T PUT THIS CHOO-CHOO ON A DIET FAST IT'S GONNA SMASH INTO THE STATION AND EVERYBODY'LL DIE A **HORRIBLE, FLAMING DEATH.**

BUT YOU GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT 'CAUSE MY **PARTNER'S** ON THE CASE!

WH... WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?

I HAVE **NO** CLUE. BUT HEY...HE'S **BATMAN!**

IT WAS IN THIS VERY CAR THAT MY FATHER ASKED MY MOTHER TO **MARRY** HIM.

EVERY YEAR ON THEIR ANNIVERSARY THEY WOULD TAKE THE SAME TRIP AND SIT IN THE SAME SEATS...MY FATHER WOULD GET ON ONE KNEE, AND ASK HER TO MARRY HIM ALL OVER AGAIN.

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

EXCEPT FOR THE METAL FRAME AND CHASSIS, THESE OLD CARS ARE MADE MOSTLY OF **WOOD.** AND ALTHOUGH WE WERE TOLD THEY COULDN'T BE **UNCOUPLED...**

...NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT THEM NEEDING TO BE **INTACT.**

FASHHH

WHAT THE...?

HEY, MARTY, ONLY TRAIN DUE IN IS ***THE BULLET,*** RIGHT?

YEAH, WHY?

I THINK IT'S ON ***FIRE!*** GET 'EM ON THE RADIO, FIND OUT WHAT THE ***HELL'S*** GOING ON.

RADIO'S DEAD! HOLY...THE ***RAIL SWITCHES!*** ALL OF THEM JUST WENT OFFLINE! LOU, THE TRAIN'S HEADED ***STRAIGHT*** FOR US...

"...AND WE ***CAN'T STOP*** IT!"

BATMAN... IS IT TRUE WHAT THE JOKER SAID...

...THAT WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE?

I...I HAVE A DAUGHTER... SHE'LL HAVE NO ONE...I...

LISTEN TO ME...

...WE'RE GOING TO ***TEAR*** THIS TRAIN APART WITH OUR ***BARE HANDS...***

WE'RE GOING TO TEAR IT APART AND ***BURN IT DOWN...***

"...NO ONE IS GOING TO ***DIE*** TODAY."

BREEP BREEP

I DUNNO, BATS. I DON'T THINK YOUR **FIRE** TRICK IS GONNA DO IT. I SAY WE CUT BAIT, HEAD HOME, AND DO BETTER NEXT TIME.

THE JOKER ISN'T WRONG, BATMAN, THE TRAIN HAS LIGHTENED CONSIDERABLY BUT YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. ONCE YOU PASS THE **FINAL SWITCH** THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO STOP IT FROM HITTING THE STATION.

MAYBE...MAYBE WE SHOULD DRAW STRAWS...OR SOMETHING.

NO ONE IS DRAWING STRAWS...

...WE'RE **CLOSE**...KEEP WORKING!

EEEEEEEE!

OH MY GOD...

...HE THREW THEM ***OFF!*** HE ***THREW*** THEM ***OFF*** THE TRAIN!

JUST THE ***BIG*** ONES.

NO NEED TO *THANK* ME BATS, JUST DOING MY PART. LIKE THEY SAY, THERE'S NO *I* IN *TEAM*--

YOU *BASTARD!*

URK!

YOU DAMN BASTARD!

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU...

...YOU COMPLETED YOUR TASK...WITH 44 POUNDS TO SPARE.

TOGETHER YOU SAVED HUNDREDS OF LIVES...

...AT THE COST OF ONLY HALF A DOZEN.

THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD MAY NOT AGREE, BUT IT SEEMS A FAIR TRADE.

KLAKT

ENJOY THE REST OF THE RIDE. WE'LL TALK AGAIN SOON.

EVERYTHING WE GOT FROM SIMTEK IS NOW IN THE BATCAVE COMPUTER, BRUCE. YOUR, UM, "FRIEND" IS PRETTY GOOD AT WHAT SHE DOES.

SHE HAS HER TALENTS, ***DICK.*** LOOKING AT THE DATA, IT'S OBVIOUS WHY ***SIMMS*** TRIED TO ***BURY*** THIS. HIS RESEARCH WENT ***WAY*** BEYOND ETHICAL NORMS...

...ALTHOUGH HIS SYNTHETIC ***PREDATOR CELL*** WAS SUCCESSFUL AT ***DESTROYING*** NEARLY ALL FORMS OF CANCER, THE HYBRID WAS SO AGGRESSIVE IT BECAME ***INTRACTABLE.***

THE ***REGENERATIVE*** POWERS OF THE CELLS WERE SO STRONG, EVEN ***DEAD TISSUE*** WAS RESTORED...DISEASED ORGANS MADE HEALTHY, SEVERE BRAIN INJURIES REPAIRED, LOST LIMBS REGENERATED. AMAZING.

HOW COULD ***ANYBODY*** AGREE TO BE A PART OF THIS?

ACCORDING TO THESE FILES, THEY ***DIDN'T.*** THE TEST SUBJECTS WERE TERMINALLY ILL AND DESPERATE FOR A CURE.

THEY ***TRUSTED*** WHAT SIMMS HAD ***PROMISED.*** NONE OF THEM HAD ANY IDEA WHAT WAS ***REALLY*** GOING ON ***INSIDE*** THEM.

THEIR VERY ***HUMANITY*** WAS BEING ***ALTERED*** WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.

RADICAL TREATMENT MANAGED TO STEM THE MUTATIONS, BUT ONLY ***TEMPORARILY*** AND ONLY IN ***SOME*** CASES.

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE LIST OF "PATIENTS." MY ***GOD...IS THAT*** WHO I ***THINK*** IT IS?

YES. STAY ON THIS, SEE WHERE IT LEADS. I HAVE TO CHECK SOMETHING.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

DIGGING.

TRUNCH
TRUNCH

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR DAUGHTER
AMANDA SIMMS
1992 ~ 2019

TRUNCH
TRUNCH
TRUNCH

TRUNCH

UH, MR. BATMAN, SIR?

IF Y'ALL DON'T MIND, I'D, UH...I'D REALLY LIKE TO GO HOME NOW.

BULLOCK...?

GPD

...YOU OKAY, MAN?

YEAH. IF ANYBODY NEEDS ME...

...I'LL BE IN FORENSICS.

TO BE CONTINUED...

INKED PAGES BY

MARC SILVESTRI

BOOK BATMAN/JOKER ISSUE# 4 PG# 1

code | stats | code

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BOOK BATMAN/JOKER ISSUE# 4 PG# 7 2 OF 2 PAGE SPREAD

BOOK BATMAN / JOKER ISSUE# 4 PG# 8

stats | code

BATMAN / JOKER ISSUE 4 20

MILESTONE'S TWO TOUGHEST HEROES GO TO WAR...
AND THE BATTLEFIELD IS TIME ITSELF!

ICON VS. HARDWARE

DC

Milestone 30

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A MILESTONE EPIC THAT WILL SHOCK THE MULTIVERSE!

5 issues | February

WORLDS COLLIDE ACT ONE

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"TONIGHT I RIDE WITH THE JOKER."

–BATMAN

The Last Kryptonian-DCP